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St. Francis students filled stockings for Women's Empowerment

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Pilots flew from Florida to attend a Fort Sutter Lions Club meeting



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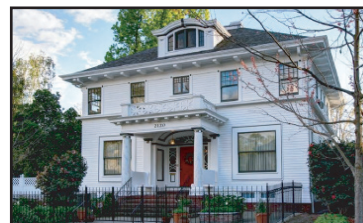


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Photo by Monica Stark

Longtime Kandern, Germany resident Peter Völker and copilot Mirko Sylla stand in front of a Cessna 172 at Sacramento Executive Airport. Völker is on a mission to make Sacramento a sister-city to John Sutter's hometown. In early November, he and Sylla flew to Sacramento to attend one of the weekly Fort Sutter Lions Club lunch meetings.

One man's journey to make John Sutter's hometown a sister-city to Sacramento

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Longtime Kandern, Germany resident Peter Völker is on a mission to make Sacramento a sister-city to John Sutter's hometown. Völker in early November flew on a small Cessna airplane to Executive Airport to attend one of the weekly Fort Sutter Lions Club lunch meetings, which start at noon on Tuesdays at Hoppy Brewing Company. He urged members there to commit their support to establish a sister-city relationship. Not a person there opposed. They all loved to hear the adventure that brought Völker to Sacramento and his passion to further memorialize Sutter.

Völker lives on the street which carries Sutter's name and the town has a small museum where visitors can find documents of the life of Sutter and visit the house where he was born. And at Sutter's Fort, there is a plaque that mentions Sutter's birthplace as Kandern. So to Völker, making Kandern and Sacramento a sister-city relationship seems like a viable option and he is determined to make it happen. "We know many Americans who are very keen to find out about their roots, which often lie in Germany," he said.

At the luncheon, the tone was very light-hearted, and Lamb introduced Völker with a bit of a joke: "He called my office a few times and I thought, this criminal is really persistent. I called him back and he explained where he was from and anyway, he's here today."

Upon describing his flight to Sacramento, he said he wanted to visit Lions Clubs in the cities where he wanted to make a stop. Heavily involved in the Lions Club in Kandern, Völker began an initiative to bring together Lions Clubs within the region tri-country region (France, Germany and Switzerland)



Photo by Monica Stark

Longtime Kandern, Germany resident Peter Völker, shown at the left, was recognized by Fort Sutter Lions Club members for his efforts to make Sacramento a sister-city to John Sutter's hometown. He and copilot Mirko Sylla flew to Sacramento Executive Airport from Florida to attend one of the weekly Fort Sutter Lions Club lunch meetings.

as Kandern is located in the southern part of the country near those borders.

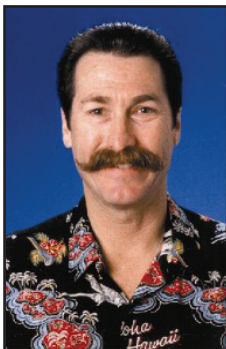
When Völker was planning his trip, he discovered there was a club in Sacramento with the name Fort Sutter. Since he was not allowed to fly through Russia to Sacramento, he decided to fly to Sacramento from his second home in Florida, he said. He rented a Cessna 172 from the flight-

See Völker, page 3

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Völker:

Continued from page 2

school where he took flying lessons. Together with his co-pilot, Mirko Sylla, he enjoyed the warm hospitality of Mark Lamb and wife Tracy where they met another Lions couple, the Thielens.

When Völker rented the Cessna with his old flight-school he asked if there was a student who would like to join him on this trip who may need additional flight hours to earn an Airline Transport Pilot License. "Only few hours later I received a call from Mirko Sylla, a German flight student from Berlin. I was very lucky that he joined me because he turned out to be very capable, motivated and helpful," said Völker.

The entire round-trip took the pilots nine days with two spent in Sacramento and one day at the flight school of "Lufthansa" in Goodyear, Arizona. As Völker puts it, the total distance was 5,160 nm (nautical miles).

According to Völker, former Kandern mayor Bernhard Winterhalter visited Sacramento in 2008 in an attempt to establish a sister-city relationship but didn't have enough support for the initiative. Most recently, the City Clerk's office said the City of Sacramento currently has 11 sister cities and is challenged financially and not staffed to fully support the program that currently exists.

Völker said the Lions themselves would fund whatever financial costs there are to keep a relationship going.

Lions Club meetings are held at noon on the first, third and fourth Tuesdays of every month at Hoppy Brewing Company, which is located at 6300 Folsom Blvd. The first Tuesday, students of the month are recognized, the third Tuesdays are general meetings and the fourth Tuesdays is for the club's officers.



Photo by Mirko Sylla

(above) Longtime Kandern, Germany resident Peter Völker stands in front of Sutter's Fort. He and copilot Mirko Sylla flew to Sacramento Executive Airport from Florida to attend one of the weekly Fort Sutter Lions Club lunch meetings. Völker is on a mission to make Sacramento a sister-city to John Sutter's hometown.



Photo by Monica Stark

(left) Shown here is the inside of the cockpit of a Cessna 172, the plane longtime Kandern, Germany resident Peter Völker and copilot Mirko Sylla flew to Sacramento Executive Airport from Florida in order to attend one of the weekly Fort Sutter Lions Club lunch meetings. Völker is on a mission to make Sacramento a sister-city to John Sutter's hometown.



Prestigious Santa Ynez Craftsman!

Located near East Sac restaurants and coffee shops, this charismatic 4 bedroom, 3 bath Craftsman offers traditional elegance combined with modern amenities! Presenting formal Living and Dining rooms with nine-foot box-beam ceilings and a spacious kitchen with an adjacent Breakfast Nook, this 2500 square foot residence is a wonderful place to call home. The spacious backyard offers opportunities to entertain, including a wood deck that looks onto the lush lawn area. Other amenities include parquet hardwood floors, significantly insulated, HVAC, and a full basement.

\$665,000



Charming East Sac Cottage!

Located within close proximity to Bertha Henschel Park, this pristine 3 bedroom, 1 bath home boasts original charm. This 1,032 square foot house offers a Living room with fireplace, Dining area, and a spacious backyard with a covered patio. Other amenities include refinished hardwood floors, fresh exterior paint, and indoor laundry room. A truly sweet place to call home!

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Nestled within the Campus Commons community, this single-story 2/3 bedroom, 2 bath residence offers 1,847 square feet to roam. This home offers a formal Living room with vaulted ceilings & fireplace, formal Dining area, & a Kitchen with an adjoining private patio. The tranquil backyard is not to be missed as it offers a covered patio & sits adjacent to a greenbelt. Other amenities include a Master bedroom with dual closets, an indoor laundry room, & community pool.

\$285,000



Expansive Arden Oaks Craftsman!

Resting on over an acre in Arden Oaks, this custom 4 bedroom 4 bath Craftsman will stop you in your tracks. This 4,250 square foot home offers a formal Living room and formal Dining area, and a Family room with vaulted ceilings and a fireplace. Even more, the gourmet Kitchen hosts granite countertops, gas range, an island, and a cozy Breakfast Nook. Presenting incredible opportunities to entertain, the private backyard boasts a large pool, spacious patio, mature gardens and lawn area. Other amenities include hardwood floors and a two-car garage.

\$1,200,000



Endearing East Sac Bungalow!

Resting near East Sac restaurants, coffee houses, & shops, this 2 bedroom, 1 bath bungalow offers the charm of Home Sweet Home. This home presents a formal Living room, a spacious Kitchen with an eat-in area, & an updated bathroom. Ideal for entertaining, the intimate backyard has been recently updated to include a natural gas fireplace, new landscaping, & a new fence. Other amenities include hardwood floors, indoor laundry, & an inviting front porch.

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Comfort, Charm, and Convenience is the best way to describe this wonderful home. The wood floors are charming along with the many windows to let lots of sunshine in to light up the rooms. The original Art Deco hardware, doors, trims and windows are beautiful. Convenience is the beautifully updated kitchen with state of the art appliances, cabinets, and fixtures. The bathroom has been updated, keeping with the 1940 era.

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Where are they now? The tale of St. Francis grads and their training to become military officers

By BILL LAWS

Two graduates of Saint Francis High School mark separate milestones in the course of training to become military officers. This winter, the U.S. Navy will pin pilot wings on the uniform of Shelby DeLaMora who is completing helicopter training in southern Florida. At nearly the same time, but in a "ship selection" ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Alexandra Chan will receive her duty assignment that will follow her 2014 graduation from the academy.

Having become friends more than five years ago when they stood side-by-side playing instruments in the brass section of Saint Francis's school orchestra, it was DeLaMora, a senior in the class of 2007, who inspired the younger Chan, a sophomore, with a desire to apply to the U.S. Naval Academy. While Alexandra stated in a previous interview that it was Shelby who put the idea of going to the academy in her head, Shelby openly admits that she probably had that sort of influence on her younger friend. "We stood next to each other for days and days," she explained, Shelby with her saxophone and Alexandra with the trumpet, and lots and lots of talk between notes.

For both of these talented women and their families, however, the pomp and gaiety of graduation ceremonies may be tempered by various circumstances. According to the DeLaMora family, uncertainty about the exact date of the graduation still remains because of the "sequestration" or limitation of specified governmental functions that followed Congressional debates over the controversial national debt limits.

Shelby herself explains that on a few occasions that "because of maintenance issues, we haven't had aircraft to fly."

Also, as noted by Charles Chan, Alexandra's father, the upcoming graduation will be



Shelby DeLaMora



Alexandra Chan.

Photos courtesy

a matter of "relief" as much as it will be of joy and pride for his daughter. Although she finished with flying colors from "leatherneck" training at Quantico, Virginia, the activities were extremely strenuous.

"She has decided to accept a position in the Navy and not go over to the Marine side."

Shelby, in a telephone interview, indicates that while

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Officers:

Continued from page 4

both she and Alexandra were intrigued by their short exposure to Marine training, "it was not the lifestyle that we wanted."

Chan hopes that when ship duty is assigned in January, Alexandra gets a destroyer posting in Hawaii. "Assignment choices are a result of class rank," he explains. "It would be nice if Alexandra gets Pearl Harbor. Her mother still has relatives in Hawaii." Of course, duty stations in Hawaii would be closer to home and further away from "hot spots" such as the Persian Gulf. Shelby, as well, says that her assignment of a certain type of helicopter depends upon her class grades and rank. While her type of helicopter will definitely be deployed on the battle field, she says that she doesn't know whether it will be the model that drops off troops or the model that does the actual fighting.

Like the parents of Alexandra, Sally DeLaMora, Shelby's mother, has a bit of natural worry concerning her daughter's military future as a helicopter aviator. As she says, "I would love to keep her safe...maybe put her in bubble wrap...I could not be prouder of her service to her country."

Shelby, though, says she has been able to soften some of her mother's worry by conveying "the big picture where the Navy always does whatever it can to protect its personnel."

Both women, DeLaMora from West Sacramento, and Chan from the Greenhaven-Pocket area face their commitment with determination and resiliency. As Lieutenants, they both are obligated to serve in the military for at least five years. "For officers with flight training," says Shelby "the obligation is for 10 years."

DeLaMora, according to her mother, turned down two full scholarships to Catholic universities in California. Rather than accept these academic guarantees, Shelby says that she even accepted a probationary acceptance to the academy in the first year. "I had

to keep my grades up or be tanked," she explains.

The young woman's patriotism stems from a strong sense of idealism that was nurtured by her religious upbringing. "She was active in church through altar service, choir and liturgy reading," explains her mother. To this day, Shelby keeps in her bathroom her St. Francis graduation candle with the emblazoned motto of "peace and goodness."

When the national tragedy of "9/11" happened, Shelby, who was in seventh grade, began a correspondence with a soldier in Afghanistan. While she never met him, she feels that the traumatic event and aftermath in New York may have encouraged her "to dream of working in the FBI, CIA or somewhere in government."

As her father explains, the most challenging time of her Naval training has been in helicopter school. "The pace of work was very challenging," he explains. Learning to fly a combat helicopter consisted of class work, flight simulation and then actual performance in the air. These three steps, he explained, repeated themselves again and again for various stages of the training.

Shelby agrees with her father, saying that she still has one more course to pass in order to receive her wings in January.

Chan's commitment to Naval service is as equally determined. During academy summer programs, for example, Chan has kayaked in Alaska and piloted a sailboat from the Chesapeake to New York harbor. According to her father, Chan and her mother had to meet with three sets of

doctors before demonstrating that her vision problems wouldn't disqualify her from service or attendance at the academy. Chan's persistence may reflect the tenacity of her Chinese-American family which has struggled over many years through secondary migrations to gain a foothold in welcoming country. According to Chan's father, before Alexandra's birth, the family migrated from mainland China to Hawaii and then to Lima, Peru, before coming to America.

Whatever its source, though, the women's strong motivation and competitive drives have been a component of a powerful passion for sports.

In grade school, for example, Alexandra was the only female on the local softball team. She continued to play softball with a strong sense of competitive zeal while majoring in history at the academy.

Shelby confirms this aspect of strength and determination in her younger friend. "Her sense of humor is tremendous," she says. "Whenever we saw each other at the academy, we started laughing almost immediately."

DeLaMora's involvement in rowing or crew competition brought her to the attention of the academy. As explained by Shelby, her leadership at both her rowing club and at the academy of a team or crew of rowers gave her a sense of bonding or unity with one's mates that is critical for a military attitude. According to her parents, Shelby's involvement with organized rowing on Lake Washington in West Sacramento led to her personal values of physical

fitness but also a sense of leadership. Her connection, through the internet, with the academy rowing program was her first contact with the Navy school.

Because the two friends' companies (the Naval academy is divided up into approximately 30 companies of midshipmen) were situated close to one another in the mess hall, they got to see each other briefly but regularly.

Despite rigorous and controlled aspect of their Naval training, both of these women will emerge from their careers with creative and rich personalities. As stated by Chan in a recent article, "we are taught we have to do the right thing."

According to Sally DeLaMora, when her daughter "says she will do something, you can count on her to do it." Both of these young women on the verge of military careers are woven with a very special and durable fi-

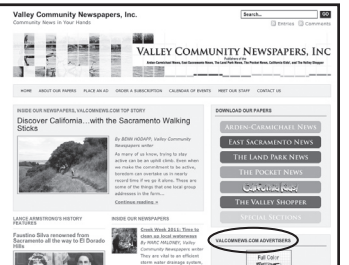
ber. Although a single child, Chan explains in relationship to her classmates that "I have formed some close relationships because as a group we go through so much together." DeLaMora, as well, keeps close tabs with her sister Kelly who like Shelby is an English major. Family, it seems, is only one of the values that along with reading books, keeping physically fit and conquering challenges have coalesced to for two potential leaders.

Early next year both of these friends will be given an assignment. For one it will be on water, and the other the assignment will be at an air naval facility. One can only hope, because of the special nature of the bond that began at St. Francis High School that their deployments will be peaceful, challenging and close enough to allow a very special relationship to survive and prosper.

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'Cap'n Mitch' reminisces about his children's cartoon host days

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is part three in a series about Mitch Agruss and other kiddie show hosts, who brought joy to many young television viewers in the Sacramento Valley.

Mitch Agruss, who was best known in the Sacramento region as Cap'n Mitch, is undoubtedly a legendary figure to many people who grew up watching him host local TV children's cartoon programs.

As presented in the first two articles of this series, Agruss was performing in Broadway and off-Broadway plays long before he ever donned a seaman's cap and entertained thousands of young television viewers.

He also became involved in the pioneering days of television.

During a recent interview with this publication, Agruss noted that television had a unique transition into the theatrical world.

"We were theater people," Agruss recalled. "We went to New York to be on the stage. Some people were doing a lot of radio. This (television) industry came up and suddenly we had another meeting, and (television) was frowned upon by serious theater people. But everybody was working in it, because little by little, the big studios in Hollywood were beginning to fade and the actors who were in all the famous movies in the 1930s and 1940s were coming East to do live television programs. So, in the early 1950s, New York was filled with famous actors doing television programs. People who I used to watch when I was a kid in school were people who I was now working with in these dramas in New York."

Agruss himself began to work on a regular basis in television in 1958.

That involvement in early television occurred through a sudden offer, he explained.

"I was coordinator – the liaison between the students and the major productions there every summer – (at the



Photo courtesy of Mitch Agruss

Mitch Agruss, shown to the right as Cap'n Delta, recalled that his "Skipper of the Valley Queen" set was so realistic that people would drive out to the Garden Highway to search for it along the Sacramento River.

American Shakespeare Festival Theatre and Academy in Stratford, Conn.)," Agruss said. "I was there until 1958, at which time I had a very strange experience. As the administrator of the academy, I was invited to New Haven, Conn., close by, for a television interview to publicize. It was just an interview (on WNHC Channel 8 in New Haven, Conn.) about the academy – the way people do on a talk show. When I got there, I discovered that the program manager of that station was somebody who I

had known at Carnegie Tech. They were looking for a host for a children's cartoon show. So, in the summer of 1958, I went over and talked to them and they decided that they would like to have me host 'Popeye Theater' – Popeye cartoons. They had Popeye cartoons and they had people who wanted to advertise. They needed somebody to host, so in those days somebody could do the commercials. It was as simple as that – a simple, little commercial venture for a local television station. The concept was growing at that time of what became everywhere in the country, children's cartoon hosts."

In keeping with the Popeye cartoons theme, Agruss host-

ed the show dressed in a sea captain's outfit. And he was known on the show as Capt. Solomon C. Whiskers.

In recalling the show, Agruss said, "It was a huge success within two years. It was part of a conglomerate of television ownership called Triangle Publications – out of Philadelphia – that had, at that time, Channel 8 in New Haven. My show took off and we dominated most of eastern Connecticut and up into lower Massachusetts."

Despite being well established in his television job, Agruss, in 1960, demonstrated his love for live theater when he accepted an offer from the same Shakespeare

See Cap'n Mitch, page 7

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Cap'n Mitch:

Continued from page 6

Festival Theatre to join a national tour of productions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "The Tempest."

A year later, because of the high reputation of his former children's cartoon host position in New Haven, Agruss was invited to audition for a similar job at Channel 13 in Sacramento.

After being offered and accepting the position, Agruss moved West with his wife and their two boys in the late summer of 1961.

Following his arrival in Sacramento, Agruss worked with Channel 13 to create what became known as the Cap'n Delta show.

As the "Skipper of the Valley Queen," Agruss would entertain small groups of children, some of whom would look through a spyglass prior to the showing of a cartoon and energetically say, "Cartoon, ahoy!"

In describing details about his show on Channel 13, Agruss said, "They built a set for me here on Arden Way, which looked so real that people would drive out to the Garden Highway looking to see where it was, because it looked just like some place along the Garden Highway, along the river. It was a wonderful set. I developed a whole system (for the show). I had just six children at a time, so I could give them a lot of personal attention. They would walk a gang-plank, they would ring a bell, I would announce their names. They would come in and they would sit down. I made stars of the kids and I talked to them about their families and their schools. I tried to personalize it on an individual basis and I gave them presents and things from the sponsors – you know, toys, food, hamburgers. There were all kinds of stuff."

Agruss said that at that time he had no idea that his show was so widespread in terms of the areas that it reached.



"It covered the whole valley and it covered from mountain range to mountain range, and it was also on cable and leapt into East Bay a little bit," Agruss said.

After five years of working as Cap'n Delta, Agruss resigned from his Channel 13 position due to a dispute with the station's then-new owners.

Agruss said that fortunately he was able to continue to find additional work as a kiddie show host.

"I spent two years traveling down to Modesto doing a kid's show down there at a little station called KLOC," Agruss said. "(That Channel 19 station) was run by a fellow named Chester Smith (1930-2008), who was a western music star who ran that and a radio station (KLOC 920 AM) down there (in Ceres, Calif.). (On KLOC's kiddie show), I couldn't call myself Cap'n Delta, so I think I just called myself 'your favorite captain' or (simply) 'captain.' I kind of treaded water there until Channel 40 hit the air around Halloween of 1968. When I went on the air for Channel 40, it was decided to call myself 'your favorite captain' and then I decided to go with 'Cap'n Mitch' to use my own name, because nobody could steal it from me. Eventually it turned out that legally I did indeed have rights to Cap'n Delta as a name. I could have always been Cap'n Delta, but it took two or three years of lawyers to figure that out. By that time, (the name) Cap'n Mitch was already established."



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Christmas Bells

By JOHN TOMASSETTI

Editor's note: This is a guest column written by a longtime friend of Martin Relles, the regular writer for Janey Way Memories.

For Berna, Denis, Josie and me, the greatest part of Christmas was not the lights, the ornaments, or the tinsel. Not even the presents, the visit from Santa, or the two week vacation from school. It was our annual trip to Theodore Judah Elementary School on McKinley Blvd. at 39th St, where our father worked as a custodian for a number of years. He and the school had an agreement. So long as our father removed and stored away the school's Christmas tree ornaments once the two week Christmas vacation was under way, he was allowed to remove the school Christmas tree from the school property and take it home.

And so, each year when it came time for our father to drive back to Theodore Judah, usually after dinner, the four of us would beg to go along. Our father would refuse, half-heartedly saying, "I don't want you kids to break any of the ornaments." We four would quickly say that we would be very careful and we would promise not to break any ornaments. Our father would give in and allow us to join him.

We would pile into the Chevrolet and accompany our father to Theodore Judah, go into the supply room and get the cardboard box that the ornaments were stored in. Then we would proceed to remove the ornaments from the Christmas tree, and as always, we would manage to break at least one, if not two of the ornaments in the process. Our father never got upset over our carelessness. Nor did our carelessness ever stop

him from allowing us to join him year after year. We would store away the box of ornaments when we were finished taking them off the tree, and then we all would carry the Christmas tree and place it into the trunk of the Chevrolet where our father would secure it with a rope for its trip to its second home.

By the time we would return home, our mother would already have the area in front of the living room window cleared of any furniture and in their place would be the family Christmas tree stand awaiting the arrival of our family Christmas tree. Then, when the tree was set up in its place of honor, together we all would proceed to decorate our Christmas tree, starting with the strings of C9-sized Christmas lights, since the miniatures had not been invented yet.

The first set of ornaments to be placed onto our Christmas tree were four bells, each one representing Berna, Denis, Josie and myself, placed onto the topmost branches of the tree. A fifth bell was added representing our little brother Mark who was born on Valentine's Day in 1961. The remainder of the ornaments

were added after. The tinsel was added last so that the tree could shine bright from the large lights. The last step in the decorating process was to step outside to observe our Christmas tree from the sidewalk, where it would receive a few oohs and aahs, and then we would run back into the house to warm ourselves back up.

For several years this was our annual Christmas tradition. But, as all good things do come to an end, our annual trip to Theodore Judah ended when our father was transferred from the elementary school to work at Hiram Johnson High School in 1965. Our ages ranged from ten to fifteen years old when our annual tradition became a joyful memory that we would talk about for many years after. Unfortunately for our little brother Mark, he would never be given the opportunity to make the annual trip to Theodore Judah. He was only three years old at the time of our last trip to the elementary school. Had the tradition continued, Mark would have also had the fond memory of our trips with our father, and the opportunity to break an ornament or two.

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Tower Café was conceived & created to express the unique history & character of a city corner that continues to evolve from local memories to global pursuits – I started an idea to create a place that would be Sacramento's own little global village – a place where our hearts, minds & appetites would convene with family & friends and join "the pattern which connects" our many differences to the Mother who sustains us all – our GOOD EARTH.
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Opinion:

McKinley Village: The right project at the right time



By DOUG POPE

From 1977 to 1989, I had the honor of representing East Sacramento and River Park on the Sacramento City Council. It was a privilege to serve the community in which I was born and raised and to work with neighbors to preserve our exceptional quality of life as our community grew and evolved.

Over the last two decades, there have been numerous proposals to develop the 48 acre property north of the Cannery Business Park and south of the Capital City Freeway. There is no question that this site will ultimately be developed – in fact, it has been slated for urbanization in the City's General Plan for over two decades and the site is currently zoned for heavy industrial uses.

It is in the interest of the community as a whole and our neighborhood to see the right kind of development in this location – development that is compatible with nearby neighborhoods and that will add to the strength and vitality of our city. I believe that the proposed McKinley Village project is the right project at the right time for our community and our city.

McKinley Village is a thoughtfully designed, well planned infill neighborhood proposed to be built in the heart of the Sacramento region. It will provide homes close to jobs, schools, shopping, restaurants, and other services. The project will increase housing choices within our urban core, offering energy efficient homes with modern amenities and assisting the City in meeting its need for new housing.

This smart growth community of 328 homes - with tree lined streets and homes that are consistent with the character and quality of surrounding neighborhoods – is consistent with the Sacramento Area Council of Government's Sustainable Communities Strategy. Front entries and porches on the street, a neighborhood recreation center and pool, and attractive parks and green spaces will create a pedestrian friendly environment. Bikeways and walkways will stitch together the neighborhood and connect McKinley Park, McKinley Village, Sutter's Landing Park, and the American River Parkway. The design and location of McKinley Village will help our region meet its goals of reducing vehicle miles travelled and improving air quality.

McKinley Village will create a significant investment in and economic benefit to the Sacramento area. During construction, McKinley Village is

projected to generate approximately \$207million in economic output in Sacramento County and create critically needed jobs.

For these reasons, McKinley Village has garnered broad support from over 400 members of our local communi-

ty, including former Mayor Burnett Miller who preceded me on the City Council and Josh Pane who succeeded me in office.

I am pleased to support the McKinley Village project and look forward to this neighborhood joining the

family of neighborhoods that make up our East Sacramento community.

Doug Pope, a life-long Sacramento resident, represented East Sacramento and River Park on the Sacramento City Council from 1977-1989.



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Faces and Places:

California International Marathon

Photos by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

These photos were taken on the J Street/Fair Oaks bridge during the California International Marathon, held on Sunday, Dec. 8. The annual race is known worldwide for its flat, fast course, which begins in Folsom and ends at the state Capitol building. This year was extremely chilly with temperatures in the 20s, but by the time runners entered East Sacramento from the Arden area, the warm winter running clothes many of them had on at the start were left somewhere up the course.



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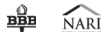
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Home Improvement Guide
in the *East Sacramento News*.

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Home Improvement

ad rates, call 429-9901.

CALENDAR

Send your event announcement for consideration to: editor@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

Editor's note: City Councilmember Kevin McCarty told the East Sacramento News the city council has likely postponed the vote for the controversial student housing project, *Campus Crest*, to Jan. 14. It was previously scheduled for the Dec. 10 meeting.

AARP tax aide seeks volunteers for 2014

The nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers for tax assistance/preparation and leadership coordinators. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. Each year from Feb. 1 through April 15, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers prepare federal, state, and local tax returns for low and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Volunteers are especially needed to assist with electronic filing of tax returns. You do not need to be an AARP member or retiree to volunteer. For more information on how you can join the AARP Tax-Aide team in Northern California, contact Ron Byrd at NoCalTaxAide@Outlook.com or visit website at: www.aarp.org/taxaide

Attn. students: Submit now for water efficiency video contest

High school students can win cash prizes and the chance to view their video on the Raley Field Jumbotron by entering the 2014 Water Spots Video Contest. The contest, sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Sacramento Bee Media in Education (MIE) program, challenges teens to create compelling and original 25-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos on a select water efficiency topic. The 2014 water efficiency theme is: Don't be a gutter flooder: Prevent overspray and runoff. Judging will be based on creativity, entertainment value, accuracy, originality and incorporation of the water efficiency topic. Finalist videos will be displayed on the Raley Field Jumbotron screen and winners announced at a Sacramento River Cats game in April 2014. Winning students and their teachers will also get cash prizes. The grand prize winner's spot may become part of RWA's 2014 television ad campaign. Submissions due Feb. 28. Visit www.BeWaterSmart.info for more information and tips on using water more efficiently and to submit entries or get more information about

contest rules, judging and prizes, visit www.sacbee.com/water-spots

The Sacramento Capitolaire meeting

A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Hall (Sierra Arden United Church of Christ), 890 Morse Ave., Sacramento. Info: www.capitolaire.org, call 888-0877-9806, or email info@capitolaire.org

Artisan holds Food Drive

Artisan Salon is participating in the Spirit of Giving Food Drive. Over the last 17 years, the Spirit of Giving (SOG) drive has helped Sacramento Food Bank collect and distribute over 4.6 million pounds of canned and non-perishable food items for local families in need. Help support families in need by participating in this year's drive! Artisan Salon is located at 3198 Riverside Blvd.

Soroptimist International of Sacramento South meetings

A service organization dedicated to insure the status of women and girls, the group meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. The meetings discuss our fund raising Projects and Community Service, often with speakers from our community.

Adopt a child for the holidays

Help Sunburst Projects bring joy to the lives of children living with HIV/AIDS. Contact Sunburst Projects at 1095 19th St. Suite 1A, Sacramento. 440-0889, ext. 301.

Women With Good Spirits monthly meetings

Women With Good Spirits is a networking group that engages women in the Sacramento community with non-profit organizations that make contributions to our quality of life and care for our fellow residents. Each month, Women With Good Spirits invites a community non-profit to present on its mission work. The meeting is held at Revolution Wines on the second Tuesday of each month and starts at 6:30 p.m. The presenter will start their presentation promptly at 7:15p and will last 15-20 minutes with an open Q & A forum after. A \$5+ donation per person that will go directly to the non-profit presenting that month. For more information, visit www.womenwithgoodspirits.com/

DECEMBER

Winter Wonderland at Fairytale Town

Dec. 19: Author Erin Dealey will present her new book *Deck the Walls* with a reading and sing-along in the Children's Theater at 2 and 4 p.m. There will be holiday themed hands-on activities in Mr. McGregor's Garden and special appearances from everyone's favorite holiday character, Ebenezer Scrooge, and others throughout the day.

See more Calendar, page 18



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Come let us adore Him!
Christmas Eve, December 24th

- Christmas Family Service with Eucharist at 5:00 pm
 - Festival of Christmas Music 9:00 pm
 - Christmas Eucharist with Candlelight 10:00 pm
- All are welcome!

2140 Mission Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608 • 916-488-3550
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Please send your updated
Calendar announcements

...especially if you host monthly events!
e-mail to editor@valcomnews.com

Fax to: 429-9906
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Call (916) 429-9901 for rates.

17th Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser

**Bella Vista High School
Football Boosters**

**Saturday, February 1, 2014
5 – 11 p.m.**

**Divine Savior Church
9079 Greenback Lane, Orangevale**

\$40 per person/tables seat 8
(916) 717-3517

or Order forms @ www.bellavistafootball.com

Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society's Annual Rent Party

January 12, Noon - 5 p.m.

**Dante Club
2330 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Sacramento**

Members \$10, Non-members \$15
Students \$5

This mini-festival will feature 15 bands.

**Call (916) 444-2004
for further information**

**CALL AND PLACE YOUR
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CALENDAR

Continued from page 17

Winter Wonderland at Fairytale Town

Dec. 20: There will be strolling Victorian carolers from 5 to 7 p.m. from Sacramento Theater Company's School of the Arts. Throughout the day, there will be holiday themed hands-on activities in Mr. McGregor's Garden and special appearances from everyone's favorite holiday character, Ebenezer Scrooge, and others

Bi-Polar Anonymous

Dec. 20: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7-

8:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blvd., Room 106. (916) 889-5786.

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Dec. 20: Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on first, second and third Fridays at 7:00 AM and Dinner meeting on fourth Thursday at 6:00 PM. Topical weekly speakers and 'first meal for visitors on us.' Meet at The Kiwanis Family House, (at UCD Med Ctr/ 50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com, Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

Winter Wonderland at Fairytale Town

Dec. 21 to 22: Santa Claus will be in his workshop in the Children's Theater and available for visits and photos from 3 -7 p.m. There will be strolling Victorian carolers from 5 to 7 p.m. from Sacramento Theater Company's School of the Arts. Throughout the day, there will be holiday themed hands-on activities in Mr. McGregor's Garden and other areas and special appearances from everyone's favorite holiday character, Ebenezer Scrooge, and others.

PJ Party and free admission day at the Sacramento Zoo

Dec. 24: From 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., celebrate Christmas Eve at the Zoo, and you don't even have to change out of your pajamas! That's right, admission is free and we will be in our best pjs. The Zoo closes at 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Clubs of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael

Dec. 24: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome, every Tuesday. Arden-Arcade meets at noon, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in the Pavilions on Fair Oaks Blvd. (916) 925-2787. Carmichael meets at 6:30 p.m., Ancil Hoffman Golf Club. www.rotary.org

Dec. 24: An organization for the betterment of women and children meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic.

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Dec. 26: Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on first, second and third Fridays at 7:00 AM and Dinner meeting on fourth Thursday at 6:00 PM. Topical weekly speakers and 'first meal for visitors on us.' Meet at The Kiwanis Family House, (at UCD Med Ctr/ 50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com, Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

Rotary Club of South Sacramento meeting

Dec. 26: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. Every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at Iron Steaks Restaurant, 2422 13th St, Sacramento, CA 95818.

Bi-Polar Anonymous

Dec. 27: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7-8:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blvd., Room 106. (916) 889-5786.

Rotary Clubs of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael

Dec. 31: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome, every Tuesday. Arden-Arcade meets at noon, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in the Pavilions on Fair Oaks Blvd. (916) 925-2787. Carmichael meets at 6:30 p.m., Ancil Hoffman Golf Club. www.rotary.org

Dec. 31: An organization for the betterment of women and children meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic.

JANUARY

Free event: Estate Planning Safari at the Sacramento Zoo

Jan. 23: Held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Kampala Center in the Sacramento Zoo, this free informative seminar will navigate through a jungle of topics presented by local attorney Mark S. Drobny, California State Bar Certified Legal Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law. Topics will include, but are not limited to: Living trusts versus wills; how to avoid probate; reasons for using powers of attorney, advance health care directives, charitable gift annuities. Seating is limited. To RSVP, call 808-8815 to guarantee your seat.

FEBRUARY

Sacramento Community Concert Association performance

Feb. 22: Celebrating Black History Month, SCCA presents Tenor Darron Flagg & Soprano Candace Johnson and The UC Berkeley Gospel Chorus at 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, 1300 N St. Singer-actor Darron Flagg is recognized as a standout professional bel-canto tenor, lauded for his heart-felt performances. A few of Mr. Flagg's engagements include the Lincoln Center, theaters in Eastern Europe, Walt Disney Hall, as well as the San Francisco and Sacramento Opera companies. Candace Johnson is a dynamic vocal artist who has experi-

ence in musical theater, television commercials, poplar songwriting, and piano performance. Among her many accomplishments, she held the title of Ms. Black Tennessee, and she was a finalist in the National Leontyne Price Competition. The UC Berkeley Gospel Chorus started in the 1970s as an informal student activity. Since 2007, director D. Mark Wilson has taken the Gospel Chorus in new directions, building a repertoire, which includes traditional and contemporary gospel music, spirituals, and classically influenced gospel anthems. Regular subscription: \$90, Group discount (8 or more people): \$75, Students subscription: \$45, Single Ticket: \$25. For more information, contact Sacramento Community Concert Association www.sccaconcerts.org; info@sccaconcerts.org; 400-4634.

MARCH

Sacramento Community Concert Association performance

March 22: SCCA presents A Night At The Movies With Pipe Organist Dave Moreno at 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, 1300 N St. Complemented by emcee Matias Bombal, organist-entertainer Dave Moreno will thrill you as he accompanies popular silent films on Westminster's grand 3000-pipe organ. Don't miss this extraordinary event. Regular subscription: \$90, Group discount (8 or more people): \$75, Students subscription: \$45, Single Ticket: \$25. For more information, contact Sacramento Community Concert Association www.sccaconcerts.org; info@sccaconcerts.org; 400-4634

APRIL

Free event: Estate Planning Safari at the Sacramento Zoo

April 8: Held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Kampala Center in the Sacramento Zoo, this free informative seminar will navigate through a jungle of topics presented by local attorney Mark S. Drobny, California State Bar Certified Legal Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law. Topics will include, but are not limited to: Living trusts versus wills; how to avoid probate; reasons for using powers of attorney, advance health care directives, charitable gift annuities. Seating is limited. To RSVP, call 808-8815 to guarantee your seat.

Join us for...

The Bright Star of Bethlehem

Music with Choir & Handbells
Sunday, December 22nd, 10:50 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Lessons & Carols
Tuesday, December 24th, 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve offering goes to relief for our friends in the Philippines.



Faith United Methodist Church
3600 J Street
(In East Sacramento)

CHRISTMAS

at
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Christmas Eve at 3:00 pm*
Christmas Pageant and Family Eucharist • Music by the Cathedral Choristers

Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm*
Christmas Pageant and Family Eucharist • Music by the Celebration Choir

Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm
Christmas Jazz Mass • Music by Brendan Lowe Jazz Trio with Celebration Choir

Christmas Eve at 8:30 pm Solemn High Mass**
Rite I – With Incense • Music by the Cathedral Choir

Christmas Eve at 10:30 pm "On This Day"
A Festive Christmas Concert by the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Handbell Ringers

Christmas Eve at 11:00 pm Festive Holy Eucharist ("Midnight Mass")**
Rite II – With Incense • Music sung by the Cathedral Choir

Christmas Day at 10:00 am Holy Baptism and Christmas Eucharist
Simple service with Christmas Carols • Music by the Cathedral Handbell Ringers, with cantor Jay Leach, and organist Kevin Manz.

A reception will follow each service.

*Denotes that childcare is available during the service. ** Incense is used during the service.

2620 Capitol Ave., Sacramento, CA 95816 | 916.446.2513
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Elmhurst family collects hats, gloves and scarves for those in need

According to a Facebook post by the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association (ENA), the Camatti family at 53rd Street and S Street is collecting hats, gloves and scarves for those in need. The page organizer received this message from the Camatti family.

"My block at 53rd and S Street receives hundreds of people every night walking along the sidewalk or slowly driving by to look at all the neighborhood Christmas lights. With all the holiday traffic, we found a way to try and help others. My daughter and I decorated a big sign in glitter that now sits next to a large red and green tote outside our home every evening when the Christmas lights come on. It reads: 'Donate warm hats, gloves and scarves HERE. Give back to those in need.'

"Last night (Dec. 9) was the first night we put the sign and tote out. Our hopes are with so many people passing, that they would possibly come back another night with their extra gloves and hats. But, what happened last night was pretty darn amazing. We watched a woman take off her own hat and scarf and put it in the bin.

"When we brought the bin in for the night around 10pm it was literally freezing outside and the top of the bin had a layer of ice on it. My husband and I looked at each other and he immediately said, 'Let's bundle up Capri and give these out now when it's needed the most in this cold.' So we did. The look in the woman's eyes we found downtown when asked if she would like a pair of gloves and hat (who by the way did not have a warm hat and gloves) was unexplainable. My only regret is that we didn't start collecting gloves and hats sooner in the year.

"I just want to share with as many people as I can that if you have any extra pairs of gloves hats or scarves and would like to donate and help warm someone's heart and hands in need, I would be happy to add them to the tote, and the tote will be placed outside our home in our front walkway every evening. They will be distributed as they come in ...

"To clarify, the family collecting hats and scarves is on S Street, about six houses east of the 53rd and S Street intersection (south side of street). Thanks to all who have donated!"

St. Francis High School fills stockings for homeless women and children

Local residents have brought smiles to formerly homeless women and children this holiday season by contributing to Women's Empowerment's annual Holiday Stocking Drive. Among them are students at St. Francis Catholic High School in East Sacramento.

"As part of each student's formation they are challenged to answer the call to serve," said Stephanie Villanueva, a campus minister at St. Francis. "We are offering other women the same care and support we've already received from our own families, friends, teachers, coaches and community. Through our partnership with Women's Empowerment we lift up our entire



Photo courtesy

Saint Francis High School students have collected stockings for participants of Women's Empowerment, a job-readiness program in Sacramento which is designed for homeless women and their children.



Christmas in East Sacramento

Photo by Jen Henry

Christmas lights come once a year and decorate the neighborhood with lots of cheer. So, enjoy a walk down the block and check out the spectacular show at Randy and Pat Marshall's home, located at 724 53rd St.

community and affirm the progress these women have already worked so hard to achieve."

St. Francis High School not only collected stockings for the drive, they have volunteered to host Women's Empowerment's annual craft party where the holiday stockings will be delivered by Santa Claus.

"The craft party is a great opportunity for the ladies of Women's Empowerment and their children to create unique and personal gifts for someone else," Villanueva said. "Some of life's gifts and memories are created when we come together to celebrate and simply enjoy each other. Hosting the craft party and participating in the stocking drive seemed like the perfect way to live out this year's schoolwide theme of 'Do small things with great love.' We are also excited to be working with Soroptimists International of Greater Sacramento. It's a match made in heaven: Two organizations of talented, capable women working together to lift up their sisters."

Students and alumnae have worked with Women's Empowerment for years, but this is the first year the school has participated in the Holiday Stocking Drive and the first year they will host the craft party.

Women's Empowerment offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically for women who are homeless and their children.

"These remarkable women and children have worked tirelessly to break the cycle of home-

lessness, and these stockings bring immeasurable holiday cheer to their hearts and their new homes," said Lisa Culp, executive director, Women's Empowerment. "Our hearts were warmed when the young ladies at St. Francis decided to step up their involvement this year. We are thankful to this new generation for caring about women and children who are homeless, and grateful to the school for going above and beyond to host the craft party."

ONGOING: Rotary Club of Sacramento Toy Drive

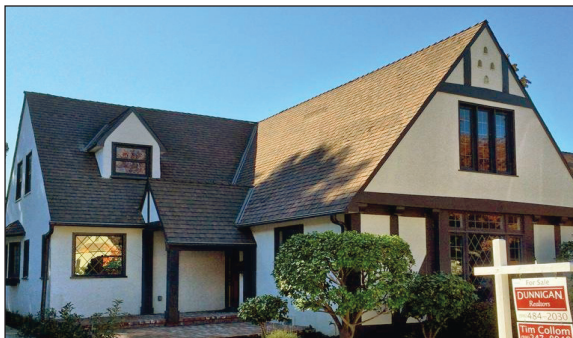
Now through the holidays, the Rotary Club of Sacramento is collecting cash and toys for The Salvation Army families. Our club is one of the Army's major patrons in this endeavor, typically donating several hundred toys each year. You can help by delivering unwrapped toys Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Rotary Club office at 355 Commerce Circle. Checks made out to the Rotary Club of Sacramento Foundation with a memo to "Toy Drive" will also be used for the purchase of much needed toys. Donations for the Toy Drive will be accepted through Monday, Dec. 23. For additional information, contact the Rotary Club of Sacramento at 929-2992.



MEDITERRANEAN MASTERPIECE

One of East Sacramento's finest homes! Wake up to the tree tops filtering the morning sun or entertain in rooms that invite the outdoors in. Unique features, a spacious artist's studio, guest wing complete with kitchen and an apartment over the 3 car garage. \$1,299,000

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483



PHENOMENAL TUDOR

Spacious 4 bedroom 2 bath, home has been meticulously remodeled with all the charm of yesterday and all the modern amenities of today. Large living room with vaulted ceilings and exposed beams, a gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances and marble countertops. \$725,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTY

The "Didion House" in Poverty Ridge! 4 bedrooms 2 full baths and 2 half baths with 3rd floor media room that features state-of-the-art equipment. Turn of the century woodwork and detailing; new kitchen and full basement. Beautifully updated while reserving the home's original quality and style! \$1,650,000

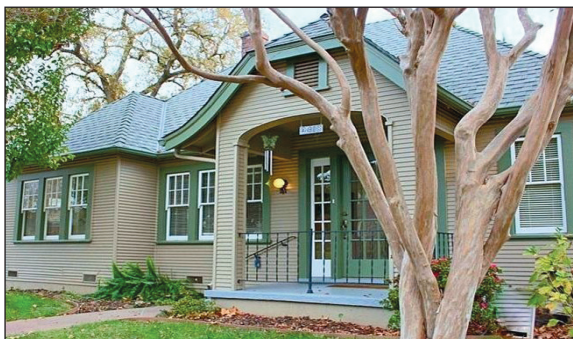
SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



STUNNING NEW HOME

4 or 5 bedrooms 3½ baths in the Fabulous 40's! Great for entertaining with formal living room and fireplace, dining room, large chef's kitchen with island and prep sink, breakfast bar and open great room with built-in's and wine fridge. 9' ceilings, 8' doors, lots of arches, open and bright; spacious yard! \$1,250,000

NATHAN SHERMAN 969-7379



CUTE BUNGALOW

Beautiful hardwood floors and a unique ceiling in the living room; lounge by the fireplace this winter and invite friends for a get together! Three bedroom home has 2 full baths, large closets, built-in cabinets in the breakfast nook and a spacious kitchen. The laundry room sink and the washer & dryer are included. \$430,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



FANTASTIC EAST SAC

This move-in ready home boasts fresh paint, refinished hardwood floors and a remodeled bath with period-perfect chicken wire tile. There are two bedrooms and a bath downstairs with another two bedrooms and full bath upstairs as well as a bonus loft space. \$419,000

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483



MIKE PARIS BUILT HOME

Fabulous new home being built in the heart of East Sacramento!!! This 3 bedroom 2½ bath will have all the classic signatures of a Mike Paris home... high ceilings, large rooms, open floor plan, indoor/outdoor living, gourmet kitchen, and an old world style and charm. \$765,000

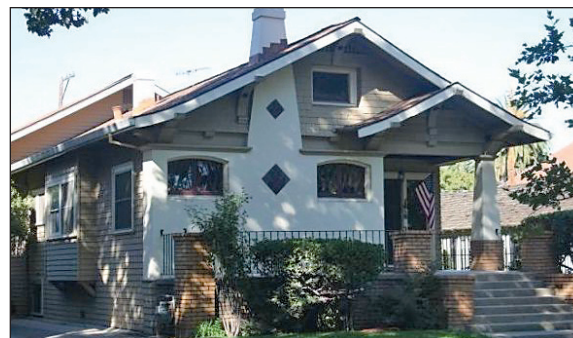
TIM COLLOM 247-8048



NEW HOME ON SANTA YNEZ

Newly completed home by Dyer Trolio Homes right in the heart of East Sacramento. This craftsman bungalow exudes east coast charm, architectural detail throughout, and a simple, spacious, open floor plan. The details: 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2190sf, and a 1-car detached garage. \$699,000

CHRIS BALESTERI 996-2244



CHARMING POVERTY RIDGE

4 bedrooms 3 baths, box beam ceilings, stained glass built-ins, wainscoting picture railing, big front porch. Lots of original hardware throughout - even a laundry chute. Easy in-law quarter or separate apartment with fireplace, kitchen, bathroom and a separate entrance. 3-4 car garage with alley access. \$524,000

LISA MCCAULEY 601-5474

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